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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Soviet Air Force Units in Wittenberg

EVALUATION

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 29 May 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2

REMARKS

1. Between 7 and 17 April 1952, 60 to 60 air force soldiers marched every day from Brueckenkopfkaserne in Wittenberg to the target range for rifle training. On 17 April, the barracks were occupied by about 500 air force soldiers, 20 to 22 years of age, most of whom wore signal insignia on their epaulets. About 150 soldiers were given a field training on the meadows at the Elbe River. Among them were three details of about thirty men each, who were instructed at three 37 - 50 mm anti aircraft guns.

50X1-HUM

2. On 20 April 1952, about 500 air force soldiers came from Brueckenkopfkaserne to Piesteritz athletic field to watch a Soviet soccer game. Bus carried about sixty air force officers from Brueckenkopfkaserne to the athletic field. Among the soldiers stationed in the barracks were recruits with closely cropped hair. There was no change in the occupation. On 2 May, 500 to 600 soldiers came to see a soccer game at the athletic field.

3. On 13 April, trucks loaded with a large crate and soldiers wearing red bordered black epaulets passed the gate of Brueckenkopfkaserne. On 17 April, truck loaded with two heavy engines, was driven into the barracks installations. On 24 April, it was observed that the barracks were occupied by an air force signal unit.

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4. An air force headquarters was located in the restricted area bounded by Ernst Thaelmann Strasse, Thomas Muenzer Strasse, Schiller Strasse and Roosevelt Strasse.

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5. Between 26 April and 3 May, Brueckenkopf Kaserne was fully occupied. The total number of trucks available was estimated at 50. The barracks installations and the Elbe bridge were guarded by Volkspolizei. The anti aircraft guns which last year were observed at the bridge were no longer there. At 6 p.m. on 3 May, five biplanes were parked at the emergency landing field near the barracks. A

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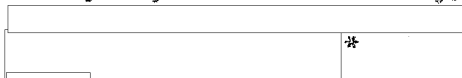
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four-mast radio station and five trucks were observed at the parking area.



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6. The restricted area was occupied by an air force headquarters. There was heavy traffic between the restricted area and Brueckenkopf Kaserne. Except for sports, there was no activity.



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*  Comment. The information indicates that there was no change in the occupation of Wittenberg. The headquarters of the southern fighter corps is still located in the restricted area; the signal units, the guard units and staff units of this corps are still stationed at Brueckenkopf Kaserne.

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